

REMARKS

Examiner Butler has rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9-19 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Butler for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the claims of the present application and an indication of the allowability of claims 3-5, 8 and 20 if rewritten.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, 17, 18 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application and to allow the early issuance of a patent.

Claims 3, 4, and 8 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of claims 1 and 2 from which they depended. Similarly, claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of claims 17 and 19 from which it depended. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4, 8 and 20 and the claims which depend therefrom are in condition for allowance. Such favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Patent Office has indicated consideration of the United States and foreign patents listed in the NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED as B in the January 19, 2005 Official Action and as A and B in the August 31, 2004 Official Action and of those cited by applicant. By the lack of application of these references and others like them within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

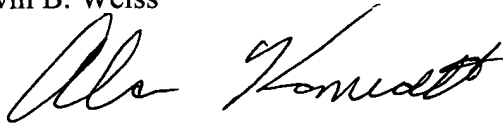
Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's motion control apparatus with backlash

Serial No. 10/714,279

reduction which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner and by the applicant, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 3-6, 8, 12-16, 20 and 22-25, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin B. Weiss

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Kamrath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dated: June 23, 2006.

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